CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to claim 1<u>4</u> ~~, characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the ~~cross seam welding device (5)~~ <u>welder</u> produces an upper and a lower weld seam.

3. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to claim 1<u>4</u> ~~, characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the ~~cross seam welding device~~ <u>welder</u> includes a welding device for the ~~generation~~ <u>formation</u> of an upper cross weld seam and a welding device for the ~~generation~~ <u>formation</u> of a lower cross weld seam.

4. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim <u>14 wherein</u> the ~~folding device (6)~~ <u>folder</u> is fixed ~~at the cross seam welding device (5)~~ <u>relative to the welder</u>.

5. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3,~~

~~characterized in that~~ claim 14 wherein the ~~folding device~~ folder is formed by the ~~cross seam welding device~~ welder.

6. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to claim [[s]] 3 ~~and 5, characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~folding device (6)~~ folder is formed by the welding device for the ~~generation~~ formation of the upper cross weld seam.

7. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes~~ claim 14, further comprising _____ a single lowering device for the ~~cross seam welding device (5)~~ welder, ~~folding device (6)~~ folder and ~~lifting device[(9)~~ lifter.

8. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the lower means includes~~ claim 14, further comprising

separate means for lowering the ~~cross seam welding device~~ welder and the ~~folding device~~ folder on the one side and of the ~~lifting device~~ lifter on the other side.

9. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 14, further comprising a lowering device [[is]] formed as a first slide ~~unit (11)~~ movable along a vertical rail [[(12)]] and supporting the ~~cross seam welding device (5)~~ welder, ~~folding device (6)~~ folder and ~~lifting device[(9)~~ lifter.

10. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to claim 9 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~lifting device[(9)~~ lifter includes a second slide ~~unit (13)~~ movable along another vertical rail [[(15)]] and [[that]] the other rail [[(15)]] is ~~disposed at the lowering device~~ mounted on the first slide.

11. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according ~~the one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ to claim 10 wherein the ~~lifting device[(9)~~ lifter has two container halves [[which]] that are open on the upper side and ~~or flaps (18)~~ supported at a cross beam [[(14)]] so that they can [[be]] pivoted [[into]] between an open and closed ~~condition~~ position, ~~wherein~~ the cross beam ~~(14) is~~ being supported by the second slide ~~unit (13)~~ of the ~~lifting device[(9)~~ lifter.

12. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ claim 14, wherein the folder includes a pair of side folders [[(8)]].

13. (currently amended) The bag forming, filling and sealing machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~folding device (6)~~ folder is ~~disposed~~ mounted on the welder in a height adjustable manner.

14. (new) A machine for forming a bag of a strip of weldable material, filling the bag with a fluent filling, and sealing the filled bag, the machine comprising:

means for forming the strip into a longitudinally extending and laterally closed tube and continuously advancing the tube longitudinally downward through a welding/folding station;

means for pouring the filling into the tube above the station;

a cross-seam welder at the station and horizontally closable on opposite sides of the tube to form therein a bag-forming crosswise weld;

a folder at the station below the welder and horizontally closable on the tube to fold it inward;

a vertically shiftable lifter below the station engageable under a filled section of the tube below the station; and

drive/control means connected to the welder, folder, and lifter for

simultaneously

closing the welder and folder on the tube to form a crosswise weld and to fold the tube horizontally inward while

raising the filled section of the tube below the station relative to the welder and folder while

displacing the welder and folder downward generally synchronously with the downwardly moving tube while the welder and folder are in contact with the tube and

thereafter

opening the welder and folder and shifting the welder and folder back upward and

discharging the filled section from the lifter and displacing the lifter downward relative to the welder and folder.